

in any one of Claims 1 - 4, in which the status information acquisition function on the host side analyzes the status of the printer based on the acquired status information data. If the printer can perform no printing, the status information acquisition function on the host side so warns the user on the host computer.

In the invention claimed in Claim 5, the status information acquisition function on the host side can analyze the contents of the acquired data. In other words, the status information acquisition function on the host side analyzes the status of the printer based on the acquired status information data. If the printer can perform no printing, the host computer so warns the user. Therefore, because the user can judge whether the processing on the host computer is performed, he or she can avoid waiting for a considerable time for the status information to be printed. The user can obtain at least the information that the status of the printer is unprintable.

When the printer is unprintable, it performs no printing even if the printing data is generated by the printing data generation function and outputted by the printing data output function. It is preferable that, when the warning is given, no printing data be generated and outputted, because the processing is just wasteful. Because the warning is given only to let the user know that the printer is unprintable, the fact may only be

displayed on the host computer. It is also preferable that, at the same time that the warning is displayed, the user be informed of the acquired status information.

As stated hereinbefore, two-way communication is held between the printer and the host computer to print a status sheet. In order to acquire more accurate status information by taking advantage of two-way communication, the invention claimed in Claim 6 is the medium defined in any one of Claims 1 - 5, in which the status information acquisition function on the host side acquires the communication mode as the status information data when two-way communication is held with the printer.

In the invention claimed in Claim 6, the status information acquisition function on the host side acquires the real communication mode as the status information data when the two-way communication takes place. Therefore the printed status sheet precisely reflects the communication mode. A communication mode may not be precisely printed by the conventional printer or the like, which prints a status sheet by using the status information held by itself. The communication mode depends on the relationship between the printer and the host computer. Two-way communication is not necessarily held in the communication mode held by the printer. In this invention, two-way communication is held between the printer and the host computer necessarily when a status sheet

is printed, and the actual communication mode is acquired as the status information. Therefore, the status sheet is precisely printed with the good communication mode at all times.

The invention claimed in Claim 7 is the medium defined in any one of Claims 1 - 6, in which the printing data generation function generates from a default file the form of the printing images that the printer prints, then generates the character string image corresponding to the status based on the status information data, and generates the printing image by superposing them together.

In the invention claimed in Claim 7, the form of the fixed (typical) images and the character string images that change with the status are individually generated, and then superposed to generate the printing images.

In other words, individual image generation processing is made minimum if only character images are newly generated and the finite form is generated from the default file every time printing takes place.

The recording medium may be a magnetic recording medium or a magneto-optical recording medium. Any recording medium developed from now on may be available. No question is about duplicate stages as a primary and a secondary duplicate product. In addition, when a communication circuit is used to supply this medium, this invention can be available.